

1. AMENDMENTS IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

At page 6, line 21,

Even more preferably the compound has a receptor affinity $IC_{50} < 25\mu M$, and an antagonist potency $IC_{50} < 1\mu M$.

At page 10, lines 19-20,

An “uncommon” amino acid includes, but is not restricted to, D-amino acids, homo-amino acids, N-alkyl amino acids, dehydroamino acids, aromatic amino acids other than phenylalanine, tyrosine and tryptophan, ortho-, meta- or para-aminobenzoic acid, ornithine, citrulline, canavanine, norleucine, ~~γ~~-glutamic acid, aminobutyric acid, L-fluorenylalanine, L-3-benzothienylalanine, and ~~β~~, ~~γ~~-disubstituted α , α -disubstituted amino acids.

At page 22, line 2,

The level of colon oedema, neutrophil accumulation and colon $[[TNF-\alpha]]TNF-\alpha$ levels were also significantly reduced.

At page 24, line 1,

The cyclic compounds described in this specification are stable to proteolytic degradation for at least several hours at $[[37^\circ C]]37^\circ C$ in human blood or plasma, in human or rat gastric juices, or in the presence of digestive enzymes such as pepsin, trypsin and chymotrypsin.